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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TUFTS Health Plan Foundation AWARDS \$81,497 to Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)**

Peer support initiative for older adults managing chronic disease

**Cranston, RI (July 1, 2017)** - Tufts Health Plan Foundation announced a grant of \$81,497 to the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) to expand its peer- lead chronic disease self-management trainings for older adults. Building on its 25 years of experience offering professional peer support programs, with this funding, RIPIN will expand its network of culturally and linguistically prepared trainers to include older adults. The grant reflects the Foundation's commitment to building healthier communities by promoting collaboration and improving systems and best practices.

"Our investments focus on improving community livability and addressing inequities to help older adults live healthier, fulfilling lives," said Nora Moreno Cargie, president of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and vice president, corporate citizenship for Tufts Health Plan. "Every community has different needs and opportunities. We want to honor communities where they [live] and catalyze health improvements for older adults and the entire community."

Working with the newly formed "Own Your Health Coalition", the Rhode Island Parent Information Network will train older adult peer trainers to expand access to programs that help older adults manage chronic diseases. Partners in this initiative include the RI Department of Health through the Community Health Network, the Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center at the University of Rhode Island, and Federal Hill House Association, who are supporting older adults through its Senior Corps program.

A recent participant stated, "I love the classes and am happy to say, I have exceeded my [health and wellness] goals! I don't want the class to end."

In all, Tufts Health Plan Foundation announced 21 new grants totaling more than \$1.7 million and representing collaborations with more than 200 community organizations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

### **About the Tufts Health Plan Foundation**

Established in 2008, Tufts Health Plan Foundation supports the health and wellness of the diverse communities we serve. The Foundation has given nearly \$26 million to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island nonprofits that promote healthy living with an emphasis on older adults. The Tufts Health Plan Foundation funds programs that move communities toward achieving age-friendly policies and practices that are relevant, focus on older adults, and include them in community solutions. Visit [www.tuftshealthplanfoundation.org](http://www.tuftshealthplanfoundation.org) or follow us on [Twitter](#) , [Facebook](#) , and [YouTube](#) .

### **About Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)**

Established over 25 years ago, RIPIN helps thousands of Rhode Islanders every year turn challenging situations into opportunities to advocate for themselves and their loved ones. Through health care coordination, health and education programs, and community outreach services, RIPIN peer professionals work side by side with individuals and families to help them navigate complex systems of care. More information, visit [www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org). Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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